

Small Group Discussion Questions

Georgetown County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Tutorial Program-4 Year Grant
- Computer lab
- Reading comprehension-Accountable Challenge
- YMCA-Cost Constraint
- Updated and 'New' Schools
- Success by 6 (TUW) – to be prepared by 1st Grade certified day care centers
- 1st Steps Program
- More money being allocated to schools
- Keeping with goals to lower the student teacher ratio
- Freshman Academy
- IB Program
- Law enforcement providing information on Gang Awareness and providing more of a friendly presence in the schools
- Job shadowing programs
- Adding vocational classes to the high schools operated by the technical colleges (dual enrollment)
- Cooperation among school board and superintendent
- Foundation support
- Carvers Bay High is a community center- this is also occurring throughout the district
- Smaller learning communities
- Schools of study
- Freshman Focus Course
- Middle Grades Matter
- ASPIRE training program for principals
- Literacy training program thru the Citadel
- TRIO Programs – GEAR UP initiative, Upward Bound
- College of Charleston Internships
- Center for Strategic Partnerships in Education
- WISE
- Foundation for Excellence Schools – Johns Island
- Local school host C of C teachers – writing lesson plans
- C of C recognizes teacher graduates
- SC State/Church partnerships- Federal Land grant provides computers
- Call Me Mister
- Community groups providing support (St. Matthews)
- Homework centers
- Wings for Kids
- Public relations person at school
- Partnerships: Professional Development Schools
- Business-Education Partnerships (Career Pathways, Principal for a Day, IN-School Banking, Education Foundation)
- PTA, School Improvement Councils
- Junior Achievement, Volunteers for America

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- After school transportation to daycare/after school programs
- Health care
- Teaching vs. Administrative duties

- Poverty – Schools mirror of Community
- Technical Courses (Construction) – Structure- Required Curriculum's (Vocational)
- Technical colleges moving away from technical fields and moving towards the community college format
- Need a better way to gauge the interest and abilities of students and provide training in those areas
- Concentrate on the basics and provide the backbone for success
- Less paperwork for teachers and administrators
- Separation of students who perform lower than others (Lowers the self-esteem of those that score lower) – Holding others back who can excel
- School choice in private sector is serious threat
- Lack of political support at state level
- Lack of long-term commitment and focus
- Attitude
- Abandonment of public school system by elected leadership
- Lack of follow through
- Equity of resources
- Lack of knowledge of existing resources
- Lack of coordination / use of resources
- Fear of children
- African American – fear of children/school
- Inaccessible system
- Teachers not willing to take a public stand
- Need to vote
- Not supporting families – schools seem to be keeping kids away from parents
- Lack of quality, out of school activities (especially middle school)
- School district structure
- State government
- Resistance to change
- Micromanagement by school board
- Not sufficiently driven by data
- Silos separate education entities

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Health care
- Economic Development
- Parent Involvement
- Gender only Core Classes
- Enhance Daycare Opportunities
- Money
- Getting the family and guardians involved in the school lives of the student
- Start tutorial programs through community churches, groups, etc.
- CBO's get involved or volunteer in schools
- CBO's provide life skills workshops
- CBO's providing parenting workshops (expand) and create communities awareness of programs
- Regular communication about school progress, especially in non-election years
- Strong leadership at every level
- Non-Profit groups working with our 4 year olds
- YMCA/Georgetown after-school and summer programs
- SOS and their teen program (Teen pregnancy, substance abuse, etc.)
- Be Positive
- Strong community platform support of public education

- Need to value education
- Pilot more models- research based
- Engage parents, community
- Promote Informed voters
- Collaboration/Coalition of existing resources
- Turn the Charleston Median around!
- Increased partnerships between business and education
- Stakeholders recognizing value of education to community
- Change school district structure to clarify lines of authority

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Get involved in local schools
- Stay informal
- Mentor/volunteer
- Vote
- Encourage young people to enter teaching profession
- Become a committed member of one of the CBO provided services
- Increase our visibility in schools
- Positive involvement in schools (volunteer, school advisory councils, etc.)
- Communicate with board members
- Parents need to take responsibility for their children
- Volunteer with non-profit groups that support education (Miss Ruby's Kids, Adult Literacy, SOS, library, etc.)
- Get others to vote
- Participate
- Support teachers, principals, etc.